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*Expedients proposed for the easing and advantaging the
Coal-trade, and lessening the price of Coles in Lon-
don and other places.*

1st. **T**hat all Ships may have liberty (if they find it for their con-
veniency) to take in such Beer and other Provision as they
shall at any time want for their voyages, in or about *Shields*,
and not to be forced (as now they are) to send Seven
Miles up the River to *Newcastle* for the same, whereby they often
lose the opportunity of a fair Wind, or a Convoy, and by conse-
quence their whole Voyage.

2^{ly}. That it may be lawful for any Ship in distress, to make use of any
Pilot or Carpenter, though no Freeman of *Newcastle* (which is now
by no means permitted) for whilst they send so far as *Newcastle* for
help (which when they do, they cannot have from thence but at
excessive rates) The Ships that wants or have wanted such help, may
be, and often have been cast away before such Pilot or Carpenter
could come to them.

3^{ly}. That a Free Ballast-shore may be built by the owners of *Jarrow-
slike*, near *Shields*, or any other owners of Lands and Grounds there-
abouts; and that all Ships may (if for their own benefit) be at li-
berty to lay Ballasts there and not forced (as now they are) to car-
ry it several Miles up a dangerous River to *Newcastle*-shores: In as-
much as *Jarrow-slike*-shoar when built, will be greatly for the ad-
vantage of the River, and all Ships trading up the same.

And it is further offered to consideration, and will easily be de-
monstrated, that if these things were done, the River would be much
bettered, made deeper and more Navigable; which would encourage
the building of great Ships, which are the most proper for that Trade,
and such as would be useful for defence of the Kingdom in time of
War: Besides, by these means, Masters of Ships might make Two
or three Voyages in the year more than now they do, by reason of
the quick dispatch they would then receive above what they now
have: The consequence whereof must needs be, that Coals, Glass,
Salt, and Millstones, which are the proper commodities of those parts,
would be much cheaper to the Subject then now they are, and the
great duty laid on Coles for several years to come, be less felt by
the poor then novv it is.